

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-22, 24, 25 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Amended): A stenciling method comprising the steps of:

forming a two-layer stencil apparatus including an upper adhesive coated sheet and a lower release liner,

cutting a longitudinal strip along at least one severance line through said upper layer,

removing said strip,

mounting adhesive coated stencil elements to extend across the space remaining from the removal of said strip,

removing at least a portion of said release liner from said ~~assembly~~ apparatus,

mounting the remainder of said ~~assembly~~ apparatus on the surface to be stenciled, with the adhesive on said upper sheet and said stencil elements holding said ~~assembly~~ apparatus in place, and

applying marking material onto said surface through the openings made in said stencil apparatus by said removing of at least a portion of said release liner therefrom.

Claim 26 (New): A stencil apparatus comprising;

a. an elongated stencil support sheet having located between opposed peripheral edges thereof an elongated access area for registration therewith cutouts made through stencil plates positionable in parallel overlying relationship to said stencil support sheet, said stencil support sheet having at least a first elongated stencil plate support area located between at least one of said opposed peripheral edges of said stencil support sheet and said access area thereof,

b. means for mounting to said stencil plate support area of said stencil support sheet a first peripheral region of a lower side of each a plurality of individual stencil plates having therethrough indicia cutouts in the shape of desired indicia, said peripheral region of each said stencil plates being located between said cutout and a peripheral edge of said

1 stencil plate, said cutouts of said stencil plates overlying said access area of said stencil
2 support sheet,

3 c. means for forming openings through at least portions of said access area
4 of said stencil support sheet which are to underlie said cutouts of said stencil plates to thereby
5 provide unobstructed access to said cutouts, and

6 d. means for mounting said stencil support sheet and said stencil plates
7 mounted thereto to an object surface whereby paint, ink, or other appropriate marking material
8 may be applied through said stencil plate cutouts and said openings made through said
9 access area of said stencil support sheet, to thereby imprint images of said stencil plate
10 cutouts onto said object surface.

11 Claim 27 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said means for forming openings
12 through said access area of said stencil support sheet includes at least a first severance line
13 which at least partially penetrates said access area, whereby at least a portion of said access
14 area is severable and retractable away from a plane of said stencil support sheet.

15 Claim 28 (New): The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said first severance line defines at
16 least a portion of a perimeter of a said opening.

17 Claim 29 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said means for mounting a first
18 peripheral region of a lower side of a stencil plate to said first stencil plate support area of said
19 stencil supporting sheet is further defined as being a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on at
20 least one of a lower surface of stencil plate and an upper surface of said stencil support area
21 of said stencil support sheet.

22 Claim 30 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 further including at least a second stencil
23 support area located between a second peripheral edge of said stencil support sheet and said
24 access area thereof, and means for mounting a second peripheral region of a lower side of
25 said stencil plates to said second stencil support area.

26 Claim 31 (New): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein said means for mounting said first
27 and second lower peripheral regions of said stencil plate to said first and second stencil
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1 support areas of said stencil support sheet is further defined as being a pressure-sensitive
2 adhesive layer on at least one of a lower surface of said stencil and an upper surface of said
3 stencil plate support areas.

4 Claim 32 (New): The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein said means for forming openings
5 through said access area of said stencil support sheet includes at least a first severance line
6 which at least partially penetrates said access area, whereby at least a portion of said access
7 area is severable and retractable away from a plane of said stencil support sheet.

8 Claim 33 (New): The apparatus of Claim 32 further including a second severance line
9 spaced apart from said first severance line, whereby said first and second peripheral lower
10 surface areas of at least one of said stencil plates are mountable to said first and second
11 stencil plate support areas, respectively, of said stencil support sheet, with said cutouts of said
12 stencil plate overlying said access area of said stencil support sheet, and whereby at least a
13 portion of said access area may be severed from said stencil support sheet along said first and
14 second severance lines, said first and second stencil plate support areas of said stencil
15 support sheet being held in fixed relationship to said stencil plates by said mounting means
16 joining said stencil plate to said first and second stencil plate support areas of said stencil
17 support sheet.

18 Claim 34 (New): The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein said first and second severance lines
19 are further defined as being disposed longitudinally to said stencil support area of said stencil
20 support sheet.

21 Claim 35 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said means for mounting said stencil
22 support sheet to an object surface is further defined as a pressure-sensitive adhesive located
23 between said object surface, and at least one of a lower surface of said stencil support sheet
24 and a lower surface of said stencil plate.

25 Claim 36 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said stencil support sheet is further
26 defined as having a laminated construction which includes:

27 a. a top sheet,
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1 b. a pressure sensitive adhesive layer adhered relatively strongly to a lower
2 surface of said top sheet, and

3 c. a bottom release liner sheet having an upper surface adhered relatively
4 weakly to said adhesive layer.

5 Claim 37 (New): The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein said access area of said stencil
6 support sheet is further defined as being a portion of said stencil support sheet comprising a
7 portion of said bottom release liner sheet which is not overlain by said adhesive layer and said
8 top sheet.

9 Claim 38 (New): The apparatus of Claim 37 wherein said means for forming openings
10 through said access area of said stencil support sheet includes means for removing at least
11 an area portion of said bottom release liner of said stencil support sheet.

12 Claim 39 (New): The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein said access area of said stencil
13 support sheet is further defined as being a portion of said stencil support sheet formed by
14 removal of a panel portion of said top sheet and adhesive layer adhered thereto from said
15 bottom release liner sheet.

16 Claim 40 (New): The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein said top sheet and adhesive layer
17 of said stencil support sheet have cut at least partially therethrough at least one longitudinally
18 disposed severance line enabling said panel portion of said top sheet and adhesive layer to
19 be stripped away from said bottom release liner sheet.

20 Claim 41 (New): The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein said means for forming openings
21 through said access area of said stencil support sheet includes means for removing at least
22 an area portion of said bottom release liner sheet of said stencil support sheet.

23 Claim 42 (New): The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein said means for mounting said stencil
24 support sheet onto a object surface is further defined as comprising at least a first
25 longitudinally disposed lower severance line which is spaced inwardly of a longitudinal edge
26 of said stencil support sheet, said lower severance line at least partially penetrating said
27 bottom release liner and thereby enabling a portion of said bottom release liner to be severed
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1 and retracted away from said stencil support sheet, thereby exposing said adhesive layer for
2 adhesive attachment to said object surface.

3 Claim 43 (New): The apparatus of Claim 36 further including a stencil plate sheet
4 comprising a plurality of individual stencil plates severable from said stencil plate sheet.

5 Claim 44 (New): The apparatus of Claim 43 wherein said stencil plate sheet is further
6 defined as having a laminated construction which includes:

- 7 a. a top sheet,
- 8 b. a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adhered relatively strongly to a lower
9 surface of said top sheet, and
- 10 c. a bottom release liner sheet having an upper surface adhered relatively
11 weakly to said adhesive layer.

12 Claim 45 (New): The apparatus of Claim 44 wherein said top sheet, pressure-sensitive
13 adhesive layer, and bottom release liner of said stencil plate sheet are each contiguous with
14 said top sheet, pressure sensitive adhesive layer and bottom release liner, respectively, of said
15 stencil support sheet.

16 Claim 46 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said stencil support sheet is further
17 defined as comprising a single sheet of planar material.

18 Claim 47 (New): The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said means for forming openings
19 through said access area of said stencil support sheet is further defined as including at least
20 a first severance line which at least partially penetrates said access area and defines at least
21 a portion of a perimeter of a said opening.

22 Claim 48 (New): The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said means for forming openings
23 through said access area of said stencil support sheet is further defined as comprising in
24 combination at least one pair of spaced apart, longitudinally disposed severance lines and one
25 pair of transversely disposed severance lines, each of which severance lines at least partially
26 penetrates said access area.

1 Claim 49 (New): The apparatus of Claim 48 wherein said means for mounting said stencil
2 support sheet to an object surface is further defined as including a pressure-sensitive adhesive
3 on at least a portion of said peripheral region of a lower side of said stencil plate.

4 Claim 50 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 further including at least a first guide line on
5 an upper surface of said stencil support sheet, for aligning edges of said stencil plates on said
6 stencil support sheet.

7 Claim 51 (New): The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said stencil support sheet, said
8 stencil plates, and said marking material are combined in a kit.

9 Claim 52 (New): A stenciling method comprising the steps of:

10 a. forming an elongated stencil support sheet having located between opposed
11 peripheral edges thereof an elongated access area for registration therewith cutouts made
12 through stencil plates positionable in parallel overlying relationship to said stencil support
13 sheet, said stencil support sheet having at least a first elongated stencil plate support area
14 located between at least one of said opposed peripheral edges of said stencil support sheet
15 and said access area thereof,

16 b. mounting to said stencil plate support area of said stencil support sheet a
17 first peripheral region of a lower side of each a plurality of individual stencil plates having
18 therethrough indicia cutouts in the shape of desired indicia, said peripheral region of each said
19 stencil plates being located between said cutout and a peripheral edge of said stencil plate,
20 said cutouts of said stencil plates overlying said access area of said stencil support sheet,

21 c. forming openings through at least portions of said access area of said
22 stencil support sheet which are to underlie said cutouts of said stencil plates to thereby provide
23 unobstructed access to said cutouts,

24 d. mounting said stencil support sheet and said stencil plates mounted thereto
25 to an object surface, and,

1 e. applying paint, ink or other suitable marking material through said stencil
2 plate cutouts and said openings made through said access area of said stencil support sheet,
3 to thereby imprint images of said stencil plate cutouts onto said object surface.

4 Claim 53 (New): The method of Claim 52 wherein said step of forming an opening
5 through said access area is further defined as being facilitated by at least a first severance line
6 which at least partially penetrates said access area and defines at least a portion of a
7 perimeter of a said opening.

8 Claim 54 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 52 wherein said stencil support sheet is
9 further defined as having a laminated construction which includes:

- 10 a. a top sheet,
- 11 b. a pressure sensitive adhesive layer adhered relatively strongly to a lower
12 surface of said top sheet, and
- 13 c. a bottom release liner sheet having an upper surface adhered relatively
14 weakly to said adhesive layer.

15 Claim 55 (New): The method of Claim 54 wherein said access area of said stencil
16 support sheet is further defined as being a portion of said stencil support sheet comprising a
17 portion of said bottom release liner sheet which is not overlain by said adhesive layer and said
18 top sheet.

19 Claim 56 (New): The method of Claim 55 wherein said step of forming openings through
20 said access area of said stencil support sheet includes removing at least an area portion of
21 said bottom release liner of said stencil support sheet.

22 Claim 57 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 54 wherein at least a portion of said
23 access area of said stencil support sheet is further defined as being a portion of said stencil
24 support sheet formed by removal of a panel portion of said top sheet and adhesive layer
25 adhered thereto from said bottom release liner sheet.

26 Claim 58 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 57 wherein said top sheet and adhesive
27 layer of said stencil support sheet have cut at least partially therethrough at least one
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1 longitudinally disposed severance line enabling said panel portion of said top sheet and
2 adhesive layer to be stripped away from said bottom release liner sheet.

3 Claim 59 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 58 wherein said step of forming openings
4 through at least portions of said access area of said stencil support sheet is further defined
5 as including removing at least a portion of said bottom release liner from said stencil support
6 sheet.

7 Claim 60 (New): The method of Claim 59 wherein said step of removing at least a
8 portion of said bottom release liner to form a said opening therethrough is further defined as
9 being facilitated by at least a first severance line which at least partially penetrates said
10 access area and defines at least a portion of a perimeter of said opening.

11 Claim 61 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 54 wherein said step of mounting said
12 stencil support sheet to an object surface is further defined as being facilitated by provision
13 of at least a first severance line which at least partially penetrates said bottom release liner
14 and thereby enables a portion of said bottom release liner to be severed and retracted away
15 from said stencil support sheet, thereby exposing said adhesive layer for adhesive attachment
16 to said object surface.

17 Claim 62 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 52 wherein said stencil support sheet is
18 further defined as comprising a single sheet of planar material.

19 Claim 63 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 62 wherein said step for forming
20 openings through at least portions of said access area of said stencil support sheet is further
21 defined as being facilitated by providing at least a first severance line which at least partially
22 penetrates said access area.

23 Claim 64 (New): The method of Claim 63 wherein said first severance line defines at
24 least a portion of a perimeter of a said opening.

25 Claim 65 (New): The stenciling method of Claim 62 wherein said step of mounting said
26 stencil support sheet to an object surface is further defined as being facilitated by providing
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1 a pressure-sensitive adhesive on at least a portion of said peripheral region of a lower side
2 of said stencil plate.

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